

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending. New claims 27-42 have been added.

Support for the new claims is found at page 1, line 4-5 and page 6, lines 21-23. It is submitted that the description of a universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UART) provides sufficient support for the broader "input/output device" recited in claims 27, 30, 33, 36, and 40 and that no new matter has been added.

In the action mailed February 22, 2005, the title was objected to as being not descriptive. The title has been amended to refer to "Breakpoint Handling," as described at page 1, lines 2-3. No new matter has been added.

Claim 6 was objected to as including grammatical errors. Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that it is a "condition" that occurs and not an "instruction." If this does not address the Examiner's concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language can be identified.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,502,116 to Fowler et al. (hereinafter "Fowler") and U.S. Patent No. 5,956,514 to Wen et al. (hereinafter "Wen").

The rejections of claims 1-26 contend that Fowler and Wen involve peripherals. The rejection of claim 1 is illustrative

and it contends that Fowler involves suspending execution of a peripheral, saving the state of the peripheral, and restoring the saved state of the peripheral.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that Fowler does not involve peripherals at all. Fowler describes a synchronized halt of processor subsystems in a multiprocessor system. See Fowler, col. 2, line 3-9. In Fowler's synchronized halt, the state of an *application program* is saved and subsequently restored. See, e.g., Fowler, col. 9, line 50-55 and col. 10, line 6-10. Since Fowler's application program is executed by processors (as opposed to peripherals), only the state of processors is saved and restored in Fowler's multiprocessor system.

Further support for this position can be found in col. 8, line 36-56 of Fowler. Here, Fowler describes that his halt test arrangement is "for a plurality of subsystem processors." Pause signals are furnished to processors to halt program execution. Resumption control signals are provided to cause a resumption of program execution by the processors. There is no mention of peripherals, much less saving and restoring the state of peripherals.

Wen adds nothing to remedy this deficiency in Fowler. Wen describes application software that is executed on multiple

nodes of a multiprocessor system. There is no mention of peripherals, much less the state of peripherals, in Wen.

Please note that every independent claim defines a relationship to peripherals. For example, claim 7 involves instructions that are applied to a peripheral. The instructions cause the peripheral to suspend execution and save a state of the peripheral, and to restore the state of the peripheral. The rejection of claim 7 points to Fowler, col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 12 as showing such instructions. Although this portion refers to saving the current state of a "subsystem," col. 8, line 48-50 of Fowler makes it clear that the state of the processors in the subsystem is the only thing that is saved and restored.


Since neither Fowler nor Wen involve peripherals, applicant submits that the rejections of claims 1-27 are improper as not describing or suggesting elements and/or limitations from the claims. Accordingly, claims 1-27 are patentable over Fowler and Wen.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

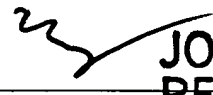
Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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Scott C. Harris
Reg. No. 32,030

BY

JOHN F. CONROY
REG. NO. 45,485

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer Number: 20985
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, CA 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099
10496581.doc